



February 2020

Dear Friends of the Center, Dear Students of the Italian Program,

I think we can all agree that writing this letter, to inaugurate the new semester at the Center for Italian Studies in light of the untimely recent demise of Mario B. Mignone, Distinguished Professor of Italian at Stony Brook, Founder and Director of this Center for thirty-five years, is a difficult task. He has left the University and all of us with the sense of a great loss. Mario WAS the Center. He conceived it; he fundraised for it; he led it, step by step, achieving both the academic relevance it has today and the appreciation of the community.

The impact the Center has on the University and the community at large, thanks to Mario's vision, is invaluable, and all of us, friends, students, and supporters, have experienced it firsthand. Over the decades the Center brought to Stony Brook first tier personalities, public servants, intellectuals, authors, professors from both sides of the Atlantic, becoming in the process a prime hub for Italian and Italian American studies on Long Island and beyond.

Often, accomplished scholars have visited on the occasion of our yearly international conference; always one of the main events of the academic year in the field, such conferences enjoyed from the beginning a resounding success. I remember particularly – for personal reasons – the one organized in 2011 on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Italian unification, entitled “Italy from Without;” but all of them have demonstrated to be thought provoking, newsworthy, and consequential, including the most recent ones: “Italy and East Asia” of 2018, and “Quo Vadis, EU?” of last November, the one Mario planned and organized together with a member of our Board, Chancellor Emeritus Salvatore Rotella, and dolefully was not able to attend. The conference attracted scholars from all over the world. How efficacious it was in assessing the results of the May 2019 elections for the European Parliament and estimating the impact of the exit of the UK from the Union, the public will be able to judge shortly, since the proceedings are bound to appear in Forum Italicum.

The next major conference, planned for September 2020, will honor Mario Mignone's work and legacy exactly a year after his death. In order to orchestrate it we are postponing to 2021 the other topic in agenda, the “Italy and India” conference planned in conjunction with our University neighbor, the Center for India Studies.

It will be painful to proceed without Mario. Yet the Center is open for business and eager to fulfill his legacy. Thanks to the Richard Nasti, Joseph Tromba, Vito and Caroline De Simone, and UNICO/Roy Dragotta endowments, we are preparing a vast and diverse line-up of programs for the Spring semester; please check the details in the following schedule and on-line, since events will be added on a regular basis. Thanks to the generous endowment from a Friend of the Center, we are able to organize Italian classes for the community. If you want to give your children a head-start in life and acquaint them early with a language other than English, do consider enrolling them in our language courses at a subsidized rate. Analogously, the Center is grateful to the Mignone Family Fund and to the Fusco Fellowship for funding two full-time graduate students through the M.A./M.A.T. in Italian Studies. Other comparable fellowships are making it possible for deserving, undergraduate students in the Italian program to travel to, and study in Italy at SBU's partner institution, the Florence University of the Arts. If Stony Brook is nationally recognized for enhancing the social mobility of its students, it must be said that the Center for Italian Studies, thanks to the vision of Mario Mignone and the generous contributions of its supporters, is leading the way.

In these times of transition, the Center is relying on the competence of its office staff and their unflinching enthusiasm and knowledge of the ins and outs of the administrative works of the University. Also, the Center's Advisory Council, who have come together to maintain a steady helm on the institution, is welcoming aboard its most recent member, Dr. Lois P. Mignone. I'm joining them in thanking you for your support and interest in the activities of the Center. *Ci vediamo presto,*

Giuseppe Gazzola

Center for Italian Studies at Stony Brook
Preliminary Winter/Spring Calendar of Events, 2020
All are invited. Free and Open to the Public

February

Announcement: Center for Italian Studies Annual Essay Contest for Secondary School Students.
Theme: Book Report on a Publication (fiction or non-fiction) by an Italian American author.
Call 631-632-7444 for guidelines and additional details for participating in this contest.

March

10, Tuesday, 10 a.m.

Richard Nasti Series Presentation by Millicent Marcus (Yale University). Title: *The "Beautiful Confusion" and the Search for the Soul: Federico Fellini's 8 1/2*. Location: Stony Brook University's Center for Italian Studies, Frank Melville Memorial Library, Room E4340.

19, Thursday, Noon

You are invited to our annual celebration of the Tradition of St. Joseph's Table.

Program: Noontime Mass in St. James RC Church, 25 A, Setauket. After Mass, in St. James Parish Center:
Remarks on the Tradition of St. Joseph's Table followed by Table Refreshments.

Please, RSVP: 631-632-7444 if you will be participating in this cultural celebration. This occasion is being offered with the cooperation and assistance of the Setauket St. James Parish Rosary Altar Society.

20, Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

AATI (American Association of Teachers of Italian) Long Island Chapter: Annual Secondary School Poetry and Arts Contest: Competitive recitation of Italian poems, and competition of singing Italian songs by students of Italian from participating local secondary schools followed by award ceremonies. Offered at the Campus Center at SUNY/College of Old Westbury. For additional information contact Diana Riccoboni at 631-724-5320.

23, Monday, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Opening Reception– Exhibition: *Blind Visions: Carlo Levi's Designs della Cecità*, (See insert, Page 3 for Exhibition details.) Location: Stony Brook University's Wang Center, Chapel. All are invited. Free and open to the public. This exhibition is brought to Stony Brook in cooperation with and after having been on view at Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò, NYU.

27, Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Workshop for Teachers and Learners: *A Vertical Building: Languages from Elementary School to College*. Co-sponsored by the Departments of European Languages, Literatures and Cultures, Hispanic Languages and Literatures; Asian and Asian American Studies; School of Professional Development and the Center for Italian Studies. Location: Stony Brook University's Humanities Building, Room 1005. Free of charge to all participants. As space is limited, please call 631-632-7440 to reserve a place.

31, Tuesday, 4:30 p.m.

Dr. Joseph Tromba Series Presentation: Fred Kuwornu, Italian-Ghanaian Filmmaker who will talk and screen his documentaries about diversity in Italy and the young generations of Afro-Italians. Location: Stony Brook University's Center for Italian Studies, Frank Melville Memorial Library, Room E4340.

April

2, Thursday, 4:00 p.m.

Program organized in conjunction with the Exhibition: *Blind Visions: Carlo Levi's Disegni della Cecità.*

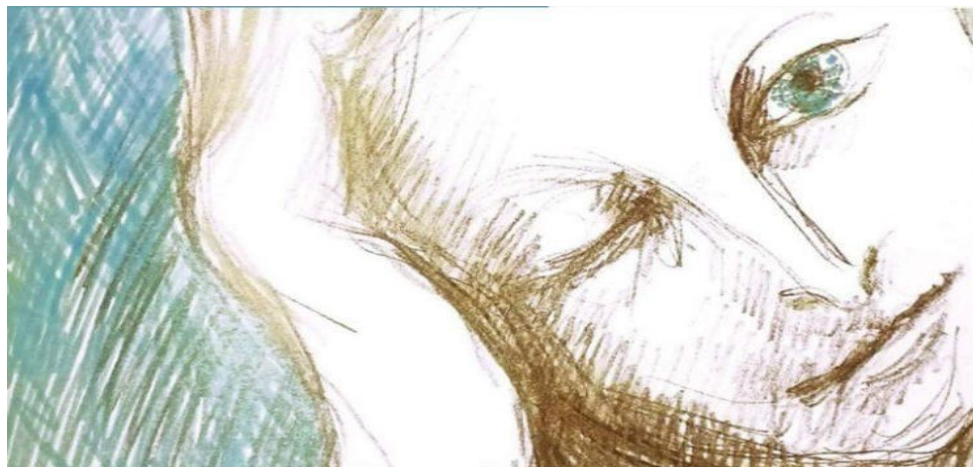
Round Table Discussion: "Relevance of Carlo Levi: His Work; Writings, and Art," with Natalia Indrimi, Representative of the Primo Levi Foundation, and Stony Brook Faculty from the Art and Literature Departments. Followed by **Screening of Francesco Rosi's adaptation of *Christ Stopped at Eboli***, (with English subtitles). **Location:** Stony Brook University Frank Melville Library, Room E4340. See insert below for exhibition event details.

9, Thursday, 5:30 p.m.

Presentation by Giorgio Bolla, renowned poet and author from Padua, Italy. Bilingual poetry recital of selections from his books by Eleonora Bolla, actress. **Location:** Stony Brook University Center for Italian Studies Frank Melville Library, Room E4340.

21, Tuesday, 4:30 p.m.

Richard Nasti Series Presentation: Karima Moyer, Culinary Historian, University Of Siena. Topic: *Food and Fascism*: A performance piece with visuals based on oral history interviews with Italian women in their nineties and selected excerpts from her book: *Chewing the Fat—An Oral History of Italian Foodways from Fascism to Dolce Vita*. Location: Stony Brook University's Center for Italian Studies, Frank Melville Memorial Library, Room E4340.



An exhibit of drawings by author and artist Carlo Levi (1902-1975), made during a period of temporary blindness caused by diabetes. In 1973, while bedridden, he had a special wooden notebook built, with strings attached to the sides to help guide his hand when drawing or writing. He labeled it "Quaderno a cancelli" [fenced notebook], the name given to his final collection of prose and poetry (published posthumously by Einaudi in 1979) that virtually accompanies these blind drawings, produced with pencil, pastels, and ballpoint pen. After Levi's death, the 145 drawings were purchased in Italy by Antonino Milicia, a farmer from San Pier Niceto (Messina, Sicily) living in Switzerland, and an acquaintance of the author's in Zurich during the 1960s. When Milicia left Switzerland and returned to his hometown, he brought the works with him and stored them among hay and other papers. This is the second time these original drawings are on view in the United States. The first time was at Casa Italiana/Zerilli-Marimò, NYU, and with their cooperation, the Center for Italian Studies is presenting this exhibit at Stony Brook University.

EXHIBITION

Blind Visions CARLO LEVI'S DISEGNI DELLA CECITÀ

CURATED BY NINO SOTTILE ZUMBO

MARCH 23–APRIL 12, 2020

CHARLES B. WANG
CENTER CHAPEL

GALLERY HOURS:

Monday-Thursday: 5-7 PM

Friday: Closed

Saturday & Sunday: 1-5 PM

OPENING RECEPTION:

Monday, March 23, 4-6 PM;
Charles B. Wang Center Chapel.

**ROUND TABLE AND FILM
SCREENING** (*Christ Stopped at
Eboli*). APRIL 2, 4 PM, Center for
Italian Studies, Library, E4340
E4340.

*All are Invited;
Free and Open to the Public.*

CENTER FOR ITALIAN STUDIES
Stony Brook University
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Stony Brook, NY 11794-3358
(631) 632-7444 www.stonybrook.edu/italianstudies

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For the most current and additional information regarding Center for Italian Studies events and activities, please consult our web site: www.stonybrook.edu/italianstudies
Also to be kept informed about the Center for Italian Studies in a timely way, we would appreciate having your email address. If you have not already done so, please provide this by emailing Josephine.Fusco@stonybrook.edu or Annette.Palazzo@stonybrook.edu.

**The Center for Italian Studies is a community supported entity.
We are happy to say that we have earned the trust and affection of our followers,
who individually and collectively, have made it possible to carry out our mission.**
Thank You For Your Ongoing Support.

Center for Italian Studies, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY 11794-3358
Phone (631) 632-7444 Website: www.stonybrook.edu/italianstudies

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